**05/27/2021 Paxton Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Members Attending (5)**: Richard Fenton (Chair), Mark Love (Vice Chair), Anthony Domineck (Clerk), Seth Peters, June Herron

**Members Not Attending (2)**: Jennifer Lennon, Tim Linton,

**Additional Attendees**: Carol Riches (Town Administrator), Peter Bogren (Select Board), Kateri Clute (Planning Board)

Virtual meeting called to order at 7:00 PM EST

* May 20 meeting minutes. MTA Herron, 2nd Domineck. Approved unanimously.
* Assessor budget (1141): Mrs. Clute not yet in attendance at the time of the discussion and vote. Fenton: Software was decreased, and utility appraiser was added at $4,000. Riches: I believe appraiser is a specialist who appraises cell towers, this should bring in revenues. MTA $82,959: Herron, 2nd: Peters. Approved unanimously.
  + Clute (comments made post-vote): Methodologies exist regarding how 504 utilities are appraised. Net book value is not accepted; extensive appraisal is required. Need to hire someone with personal property appraisal experience. Cities and towns that have done this have found that appraisals increased by an average of 35% = more revenue. We only have 2 utilities to appraise. Called around for many bids, got a favorable rate of $2000/utility/year next 2 years.
  + Riches: Thought this was for cell towers?
  + Clute: Not currently but likely coming.
  + Fenton: This is every year?
  + Clute: Yes. We have a 3-year contract. Assessment is a 3-month process, starting July 1.
* Fire Dept (1220) Error Correction: Fire fighter number 2 in previous years had received part of salary from fire, part from EMS. Formula error caused a budget error. MTA $414,593: Herron, 2nd: Love. Approved unanimously.
* Town Administrator (1123): Select Board suggested via letter that original voluntary cuts be restored. MTA $97,256: Herron, 2nd Love. Discussion: Love: All items previously taken out were added back? Fenton: Yes. Restoring the budget to original amount. Approved unanimously.
* Public Safety Building (1250): Budget revised decrease of photocopier lease to $0 and building repairs by $200. Reduce by $1,855 to $44,500. MTA $44,500: Herron, 2nd Peters. Discussion: Love: Revised budget sheet sent today did not have an ‘R’ as others did, and this was not on the agenda. Do not see any changes on this budget (+1250), do we all have the same document? Fenton: Yes, same budget sent to all. Approved unanimously.
* Deficit Discussion
  + Fenton: After these changes $2,5321 deficit exists. Tree Warden budget had $6,000 added from original budget. He is comfortable with this amount being removed. Suggest that we reduce by $3,000 to clear the deficit.
  + Love: We would be reducing $18k to $15k. We have already spent more than $15k of the Reserve Budget in this year:
  + Fenton: It’s closer to $10k.
  + Love: The $6k out of his budget and $10k out of Reserve exceeds what has been budgeted. Not in favor of cutting this budget.
  + Fenton: Spoke with Tree Warden 2 weeks ago, he is comfortable with this change. Peters: If we cut back to $15k are those funds available for other/emergency use? Fenton: Yes. Tree Warden knows how to access emergency funds.
  + Love: Reserve fund is for extraordinary and unforeseen/unexpected, suggest raise local revenue instead.
  + Fenton: Unused local revenue would hit next year, not this year. MTA Herron. Peters 2nd. Approved (4 yes, 1 no)
* New Revenue Discussion
  + Next meeting, 2nd week of June focused on revenue
  + Mr. Love will work with Ms. Riches to gather information for revenue suggestions provided by Mr. Love
* Warrant article 11: Accept budget as proposed – Cannot vote yet, Mr. Fenton needs to update numbers. Will set up a meeting prior to town meeting. Bogren: Current warrant indicates finance committee approval. Fenton: Finance did not approve, will meet prior to town meeting to vote.
* Motion to adjourn Herron, 2nd Love. Virtual meeting adjourned 7:47 PM EST.
* Respectfully Submitted

Tony Domineck, Clerk